

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

Method and devices are provided to form virtual switches for data networks. As noted above, the term "switch" as used herein will apply to switches, routers and similar network devices. Each virtual switch acts as a single logical unit, while encompassing at least two physical chassis. Accordingly, each virtual switch may be treated as a single point of management. Each virtual switch includes a master chassis and at least one slave chassis. The master chassis is configured to control the slave chassis. The master chassis includes at least one master supervisor card and the slave chassis includes at least one slave supervisor card. The master chassis and the slave chassis communicate via a virtual switch link according to a virtual switch link protocol.

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